

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IGA-02 ACDA-07 MC-02 /074 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/ECA:RCGRAHAM:RC

APPROVED BY ARA/ECA:RWZIMMERMANN

D/HA:KHILL

-----270559Z 003958 /21

R 262324Z APR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 094075

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, UY

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH URUGUAYAN AMBASSADOR PEREZ CALDAS

REF: MVD 1372

1. ARA/ECA DIRECTOR ZIMMERMANN AND DESK OFFICER GRAHAM CALLED ON AMBASSADOR PEREZ CALDAS AT THE URUGUAYAN EMBASSY ON APRIL 20. ALSO PRESENT AT THE MEETING WERE URUGUAYAN CHARGE TO THE OAS ARANEO AND EMBASSY MINISTER TALAMAS. THE CONVERSATION ON BOTH SIDES WAS CHARACTERIZED AS INFORMAL AND PERSONAL.

2. DURING TWO HOUR MEETING PEREZ CALDAS HAD NO POSITIVE RESULTS TO REPORT FROM HIS CONSULTATIONS IN MONTEVIDEO BEYOND THAT REPORTED IN THE REFTEL. INSTEAD THE EMBASSY OFFICIALS CHOSE TO STRESS THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE PRESENT SITUATION IN URUGUAY, AND REITERATED CERTAIN BILATERAL ISSUES WHICH, IN THEIR VIEW, STILL CONTRIBUTE TO A STRAINED RELATIONSHIP.

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3. ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, THEY NOTED THE LACK OF ANY NEW INCIDENTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OCCURING IN 1977 AND ASKED WHETHER ANY HAD COME TO OUR ATTENTION. THEY WERE TOTALLY UNAWARE OF THE ARRESTS OF MEMBERS OF THE JEWISH

COMMUNITY (MVD 1257). THE BILATERAL ISSUE WHICH APPARENTLY

STILL CARRIES GREAT WEIGHT IN THE GOU IS OUR REFUSAL TO APPROVE THE SMITH & WESSON EXPORT LICENSE FOR REVOLVERS. PEREZ CALDAS STATED THAT HE LEARNED DURING HIS CONSULTATIONS THAT SOME UNITS OF THE URUGUAYAN POLICE HAVE NOW ONLY ONE REVOLVER FOR EVERY THREE POLICEMEN.

4. PEREZ CALDAS SAID THAT HE HAD NOTED A NEW AND GROWING ANTI-AMERICAN ATTITUDE AMONG THE URUGUAYAN PUBLIC. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE REFERRED TO HIS GOVERNMENT'S NOTE VERBALE OF MARCH 30 INVITING A HIGH LEVEL U.S. GOVERNMENT MISSION TO VISIT AS A MEANS OF STRENGTHENING TRADITIONAL TIES. THE AMBASSADOR INDICATED THAT THE GOU CONTINUES TO EXTEND THE INVITATION AT WHATEVER TIME WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE USG. IN REPLY, ZIMMERMANN ASKED WHAT REALISTIC PROGRESS IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS AREA MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO RESULT FROM SUCH A VISIT. IF NO IMPROVEMENT COULD BE EXPECTED, A VISIT COULD PROVE MORE HARMFUL THAN HELPFUL. PEREZ CALDAS DECLINED THIS OPPORTUNITY TO TALK ABOUT SPECIFICS, OTHER THAN TO REPEAT THAT AN INFORMATION CENTER IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IS UNDER CONSIDERATION TO RECEIVE INQUIRIES ON THE STATUS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. HE ADDED THAT THE URUGUAYAN EMBASSY IS READY TO PASS ALONG INQUIRIES WHICH THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES ON POLITICAL PRISONERS.

5. ZIMMERMANN ASKED SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THE MEANING OF THE WORDING OF THE MARCH 30 NOTE WHICH STATED THAT, INTER ALIA, THE GOU WOULD BE PREPARED TO TALK ABOUT THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "AT A UNIVERSAL LEVEL". HE INQUIRED
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WHETHER THIS WAS IN FACT A REFERENCE TO THEN FOREIGN MINISTER BLANCO'S PROPOSAL TO THE UN LAST FALL (AND SUBSEQUENTLY REPEATED IN SOME DETAIL TO DEPUTY SECRETARY ROBINSON AND ASST. SECY SHLAUDEMAN) FOR A VERY BROAD COMPILATION OF THE RECORD OF ALL COUNTRIES IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS AREA TO INCLUDE SUCH ITEMS AS SOCIAL SECURITY AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS. TALAMAS GAVE THE INTERNAL SECURITY ARGUMENTS FOR CURRENT GOU PRACTICES. HE THEN ADDED THAT, AS URUGUAY CANNOT INVOKE ANY STRATEGIC ARGUMENTS TO COUNTER BEING SINGLED OUT FOR SANCTIONS BY THE USG, IT HAS BEEN FORCED TO ADOPT UNIVERSAL ARGUMENTS. BY THIS REASONING, THE GOU IS WILLING TO DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS IN ITS BROADER SENSE) AS PRACTICED BY ALL NATIONS. ZIMMERMA; STRESSED THAT WHILE THIS WAS CERTAINLY A DEFENSABLE INTELLECTUAL APPROACH, THE VIOLATIONS WHICH PREEMPT ATTENTION IN THE U.S., AND THOSE WHICH TARNISHED THE IMAGE OF URUGUAY ABROAD, ARE TORTURE, MURDER, DETENTION WITHOUT NOTIFICATION OF FAMILIES AND WITHOUT JUDICIAL PROCESS. EMBASSY PERSONNEL MADE NO RESPONSE.

6.

COMMENT- ALL THREE EMBASSY OFFICIALS PRESENT AT THE MEETING CONSIDER THAT THE QUESTION OF AN IAHRG INVITATION BY THE GOU IS A DEAD ISSUE FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. PEREZ CALDAS, LESS FORTHCOMING THAN USUAL AND DEVOID OF MUCH OPTIMISM, APPEARS TO REFLECT THE CURRENT ACCENDENCY OF MILITARY HARDLINERS. ARANEO REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT HE WAS NOT PRIVY TO MILITARY DECISION MAKING IN MONTEVIDEO. WITH REGARD TO THE INVITATION FOR A HIGH LEVEL U.S. GOVERNMENT MISSION TO VISIT URUGUAY IT SEEMED CLEAR, IN THIS CONVERSATION AT LEAST, THAT THE URUGUAYANS DO NOT ANTICIPATE ANY SPECIFIC RESULTS FROM SUCH A VISIT. ON THE CONTRARY IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THEY MAY WELL VIEW THEIR NOTE AS A TESTING OF THE WATERS AFTER RECENT TESTIMONY ON THE HILL QUESTIONING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SANCTIONS AS A RESPONSE TO HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS - AND HENCE EXPLOITABLE AS EVIDENCE OF A U.S. CHANGE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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TACTICS.

VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE094075
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RCGRAHAM:RC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2687672
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH URUGUAYAN AMBASSADOR PEREZ CALDAS
TAGS: SHUM, PGOV, UY, US, (CALDAS, PEREZ), (ZIMMERMAN, ROBERT W)
To: MONTEVIDEO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/486bc19c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009